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CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1954

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CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council W.J.Garratt, Esq., A.M. Inst. B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman " " J. R. Jameson, Esq.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee. W.J.Garratt, Esq., A.M. Inst. B.E., J.P

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health
Committee. F.J.McCarthy, Esq.,

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31-12-54.

Mr. H. A. Bore.

Mr. E. Buxton.

Mr. J. T. Cliff.

Mrs. D.F.A. Dixon.

Mr. J. R. Jameson.

Mr. P. R. Lowe.

Revd. H.P. Hollingworth.

Mr. A. Parkes. M.M., B.E.M.

Mr. S. Rushton.

Mrs. M. Smith.

Miss M. J. Walker.

Mr. T. A. Walley.

Mr. W. Wesley.

Mr. J. Wright.

Mr. H. H. Johns.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Duncan T. McAinsh, M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

G. Richardson, M.S.I.A., Certificate S.I.E.J.B.
Certificate for Meat and Food Inspector.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

O. W. Parnall, Certificate S.I.E.J.B.

CLERKS.

Miss J. Lockley. (Married October, 1954, now
Mrs. Goldstraw).

Miss J. Wynn.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Rural District Council:-

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1954 as Medical Officer of Health. It is compiled to comply with Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 of 15th December, 1954. There is included a report for the year by your Chief Sanitary Inspector.

For your District the Health Services under Part 3 of the National Health Services Act, 1946 are under the control of the Staffordshire County Council which is the Local Health Authority. These services include among others the provision of Ambulance Service, ante-natal and infant welfare clinics, district nurses and home helps.

The vital statistics for the year were again favourable, the corrected Birth Rate for the District being 17.13 per 1,000 population as against 15.2 for England and Wales: while the corrected Death Rate for the District was 10.12 per 1,000 population, that for the country as a whole being at 11.3. For some years now there has been a similar balance in favour of the District both in Birth Rate and in Death Rate. Area Comparability Factors for the year were:- for Births 0.96 and for Deaths 1.11.

As regards Infectious Disease, there were no cases of Smallpox, Typhoid Fever, Para-typhoid, nor Diphtheria. This is the second year in which there has been no case of Diphtheria in your District. Efforts are being made to keep up the number of children protected by primary immunisation and by "boosting" doses. There was one case of Acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic) which is still under treatment. There was an outbreak of Dysentery (Sonne) with 46 cases notified, mostly in the first quarter of the year. The cases occurred in parts of your District contiguous with Cannock Urban District, which had concurrently a similar outbreak. The cases were not unduly severe but some of them were slow to clear up. This entailed a considerable number of specimens having to be examined by the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, the Staff of which in this matter as invariably were most helpful.

During the year 69 council houses were completed, and 70 houses were built privately. The allocation of tenancies of new council houses on a fair basis is one of many difficult and responsible tasks that the Council bears.

A careful watch is being kept on houses which have become beyond repair and, as circumstances warrant, Demolition or Closing Orders are sought for them. The ex-military camp at Middle Hill which was originally occupied by squatters is a source of considerable anxiety. The huts are admittedly sub-standard and, as each hut becomes vacant, it is pulled down. Many of the huts at Huntington, erected after the 1914-18 war, are now showing signs of advanced age. When the supply of new houses permits of the closing of the hostel at Holly Close, Landywood and the camps at Pottal Pool and at Primrose Park, Penkridge, a definite step will have been taken to improve the standard of housing in the District.

Commencement has been made on the Comprehensive Sewage Scheme for Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Wedges Mills.

During the year considerable nuisance has been caused by smoke and smells emitted by the factories at Four Ashes. The liquid effluent too has caused trouble. Investigations have been made with a view to minimising the nuisance. The Inspector, Alkali Division of the Ministry of Health too is dealing with the matter.

I wish to thank the staff of the Health Department for assistance in preparing this report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council I wish to record my thanks for their co-operation in questions affecting the health of the District, and for their appreciation of some of the difficulties that these questions involve.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Duncan T. McAinsh.

July, 1955.

Statistics of the Area.

Area (in acres) 55,256 - unchanged.

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population in mid-year 25,340

Rateable Value as at 31.3.55. £110,373, and a penny rate produces £430-8-8

BIRTHS.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Total Live Births. | 232 | 220 | 452 |
| Legitimate. | 224 | 209 | 433 |
| Illegitimate. | 8 | 11 | 19 |
| Total Stillbirths. | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Legitimate. | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Illegitimate. | - | - | - |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population for the district | 17.84. |
| Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population for the district | 17.13. |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales | 15.2. |

Stillbirths 34.19 per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births.
 Stillbirths for England and Wales the corresponding figure is 24.0.

DEATHS.

Total 231. Male 129. Female 102.

Local Crude Death Rate 9.12 per 1,000 population.
 Corrected Death Rate 10.12 per 1,000 population.
 Death Rate for England and Wales 11.3 per 1,000 population.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for the country was 0.69 per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still).

There was no case of Maternal Mortality in the district during the year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age = 12,
distributed as follows:-

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Total | 4 | 8 |
| Legitimate | 4 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births 26.55
Of these 12 Deaths 10 occurred under four weeks of age.

Deaths from Measles (all ages).....Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....Nil.

INCIDENCE OF SCARLET FEVER, DIPHTHERIA
AND PNEUMONIA DURING THE TEN YEARS
1945 - 1954.

| | <u>Scarlet Fever.</u> | <u>Diphtheria.</u> | <u>Pneumonia.</u> |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1945 | 28 | 29 | 14 |
| 1946 | 22 | 11 | 25 |
| 1947 | 58 | 5 | 24 |
| 1948 | 99 | 2 | 12 |
| 1949 | 65 | 2 | 18 |
| 1950 | 19 | 1 | 7 |
| 1951 | 14 | 2 | 19 |
| 1952 | 32 | 2 | 6 |
| 1953 | 32 | - | 12 |
| 1954 | 33 | - | 22 |

AGE-Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1954.

| AGE GROUPS | Scarlet Fever | | Measles | | Whooping Cough | | Dysentry | | Erysipelas | | Polio-myelitis | | Primary Pneumonia | | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | |
|--------------|---------------|----|---------|----|----------------|----|----------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| | M | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| 1 - 2 years | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 - 4 years | 7 | 3 | 2 | - | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 years | 7 | 10 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 10 | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | - |
| 10-14 years | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15-24 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 25 and over | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Age unknown | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| TOTALS | 17 | 16 | 4 | = | 6 | 13 | 23 | 23 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 16 |

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST
OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

| <u>Causes of Death.</u> | <u>Total.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Tuberculosis, Repiratory..... | 4 | 4 | - |
| Tuberculosis, other..... | - | - | - |
| Syphilitic disease..... | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria..... | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough..... | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal infections..... | - | - | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis..... | - | - | - |
| Measles..... | - | - | - |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases..... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach..... | 4 | 4 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..... | 6 | 6 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast..... | 7 | - | 7 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus..... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms..... | 24 | 17 | 7 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia..... | 1 | - | 1 |
| Diabetes..... | - | - | - |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system..... | 52 | 17 | 15 |
| Coronary disease, angina..... | 17 | 11 | 6 |
| Hypertension with heart disease..... | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Other heart disease..... | 44 | 24 | 20 |
| Other circulatory disease..... | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Influenza..... | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia..... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Bronchitis..... | 14 | 8 | 6 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system..... | - | - | - |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..... | 1 | 1 | - |
| Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea..... | - | - | - |
| Nephritis and nephrosis..... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate..... | 1 | 1 | - |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..... | - | - | - |
| Congenital malformations..... | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases..... | 36 | 12 | 24 |
| Motor Vehicle accidents..... | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| All other accidents..... | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Suicide..... | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| Homicide and operations of war..... | - | - | - |
| <hr/> | | | |
| TOTALS. | 231 | 129 | 102 |

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925,
information required under.

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation. = 11.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. = 108.
3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders. = a.1.
= b.6.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works. = 99.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices. = 1.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made. = 3.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section nineteen of the Housing Act, 1930. = 3.
8. The number of houses demolished. = 4.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Summary of Inspections and Work done during 1953.

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Number of houses inspected for repairs..... | 150. |
| Re-inspections, calls etc..... | 397. |
| Slaughter-house licences renewed..... | 13. |
| Meat and Food inspections..... | 212. |
| Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors..... | 5. |
| Petrol licences renewed..... | 77. |
| New petrol licences issued..... | 3. |
| Drainage work examined..... | 84. |
| Cases of Infectious Disease investigated..... | 22. |
| Cases of infectious disease removed..... | 12. |
| Houses disinfected after Infectious cases..... | 21. |
| Reports of infectious cases to M.O.H. (excluding T.B.)..... | 55. |
| New licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933..... | 3. |
| Renewal licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933..... | 33. |
| Informal Notices issued..... | 99. |
| (Affecting 108 houses) | |
| Statutory Notices issued..... | 1. |
| Water Samples taken..... | Chemical..... 93. |
| | Bacteriological..... 93. |
| Moveable Dwelling Licences issued..... | 31. |
| Visits re Moveable Dwellings..... | 179. |
| Visits re refuse matters..... | 165. |
| Visits re Disinfestation for vermin..... | 9. |

SPECIAL MILK LICENCES.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938/44.
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

| | <u>Pasteurised.</u> | <u>Sterilised.</u> | <u>Tuberculin Tested.</u> | <u>Accredited.</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Supplementary Licences. | 13 | 13 | 13 | - |
| Dealers' Licences. | 13 | 21 | 6 | - |

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year the water supplies from the three main suppliers viz:- The South Staffordshire Water Works Company, The Wolverhampton Corporation, and The Stafford Corporation, remained satisfactory as regards quality. The Wolverhampton Water Undertaking did extensive works to improve the supply to the Bishops Wood area. Hitherto this supply was intermittent at times owing to there not being sufficient pressure during the peak hours of the day.

The provision of water mains in the Ivetsey Bank area was commenced during 1954.

The water from none of the three sources was plumbo-solvent.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

From the outbreak of war in 1939 to July, 1954, there were 14 private slaughter-houses within the district which owing to the centralisation of slaughtering were not used.

The passing of the Slaughter-houses Act, 1954, allowed slaughtering to be carried out at slaughter-houses other than government controlled premises. As a result of this 13 applications to use premises as a slaughter-house were made to this Council. These were granted for a period of six months.

PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED
FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER MAINS.

| | <u>HOUSES</u> | <u>HOUSES SUPPLIED</u> <u>DIRECT.</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Acton & Bednall..... | 138 | 101 |
| Blymhill..... | 151 | 84 |
| Brewood..... | 1,014 | 964 |
| Cheslyn Hay..... | 853 | 852 |
| Coppenhall..... | 43 | 41 |
| Dunston..... | 87 | 32 |
| Essington..... | 898 | 892 |
| Featherstone..... | 297 | 296 |
| Hatherton..... | 158 | 152 |
| Huntington..... | 365 | 365 |
| Hilton..... | 92 | 86 |
| Lapley..... | 239 | 206 |
| Penkridge..... | 823 | 744 |
| Saredon..... | 120 | 110 |
| Sharehill..... | 103 | 99 |
| Stretton..... | 48 | 45 |
| Teddesley Hay..... | 28 | 22 |
| Weston-under-Lizard..... | 82 | 77 |
| Great Wyrley..... | 1,310 | 1,306 |

ANTHRAX.

During the year 9 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported compared with 7 suspected cases in the previous year. None of these cases were confirmed.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

As in previous years the collection of household refuse was carried out by direct labour using four vehicles and employing, including drivers, nineteen men. The small fleet is made up of one Karrier side-loader of 7 cu.yd. capacity, two Dennis side-loaders each of 10 cu.yd. capacity and one Shelvoke and Drewry rear-loader of 16/18 cu.yd. capacity. This last named has proved most successful, carrying in each load the contents of approximately 230 bins compared with the average of 100 bins with the side-loader. Journeys to the tip are, therefore, much reduced in number.

During the year a Fordson Tractor carrying Weatherill hydraulic equipment was purchased and is proving successful in tip maintenance. The machine can, for example, attend to your tips at Brineton, Lapley and Dunston Heath in one morning.

Whilst every effort is being made to improve the collection of house refuse, the unsatisfactory storage of refuse at the house is retarding progress.

It is unfortunate that all bins are not of good design and manufacture. The usage to which these bins are sometimes subjected also leaves much that is to be desired. An all-round improvement would not only result in greater cleanliness at the house and tip, but a great saving in time and energy. The removal of breeding sites for flies at the earliest stages would have a marked effect on subsequent infestation at the tips.

I look forward to the time, therefore, when the following simple recommendations are followed:-

- DO stand the dustbin on three or four bricks or other suitable material to keep it off the ground.
- DO put the bin where the dust-man can easily remove it without unnecessary travel; the extra steps amount to miles in a short time.
- DO see that the lid is always firmly on.
- DON'T put any liquid or wet material in the bin. It ruins the bin and makes emptying difficult.
- DON'T put vegetables or any such like matter (including paper) into the bin if you can possibly burn it on the fire. This kind of refuse invites flies to your house and rats to the refuse tip, thus causing the Council a lot of trouble for which you ultimately pay.

DON'T put garden refuse in your bin, it is not the job of the dust-man to remove it. He is employed to remove household refuse only.

CESSPOOLS.

The emptying of cesspools has now become a major function of your Cleansing Department. At present two vehicles are employed at the annual cost of between £3,000 and £4,000. Four men including drivers are employed on this work covering approximately 753 cesspools.

Cesspools vary in size and in some cases are well built, either as water-tight cesspools or septic tanks, but unfortunately most of them are poorly constructed, are not water-tight and leak in or out dependant upon the level of the sub-soil water. This means that where the sub-soil water is high not only must the cesspool be water-tight, but also the drains and inspection chambers.

In my opinion it is far from easy to construct a system which is not only water-tight at its initial examination but remains so. These faults are very difficult to cure and eventually lead to an increased number of calls for emptying.

PAN CLOSETS.

The work of pan emptying is much more extensive than may be generally recognised. The emptying of approximately 950 pan lavatories together with many pans from caravans was carried out by two men using one refuse-collection vehicle adapted for this work.

This Council is very fortunate in having men who will regularly do this filthy work in all kinds of weather.

As with cesspools the disposal of the contents of pan lavatories is a great problem. Householders require their drainage systems to be emptied, but the agriculturalist rarely wants the contents put onto his land.

